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MCCULLOCH

**ENHANCEMENT OF THE RECREATION EXPERIENCE  
FOR  
CHURCH CAMP AND GUEST RANCH VISITORS  
BIG TIMBER RANGER DISTRICT  
GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST  
NORTHERN REGION  
MONTANA**



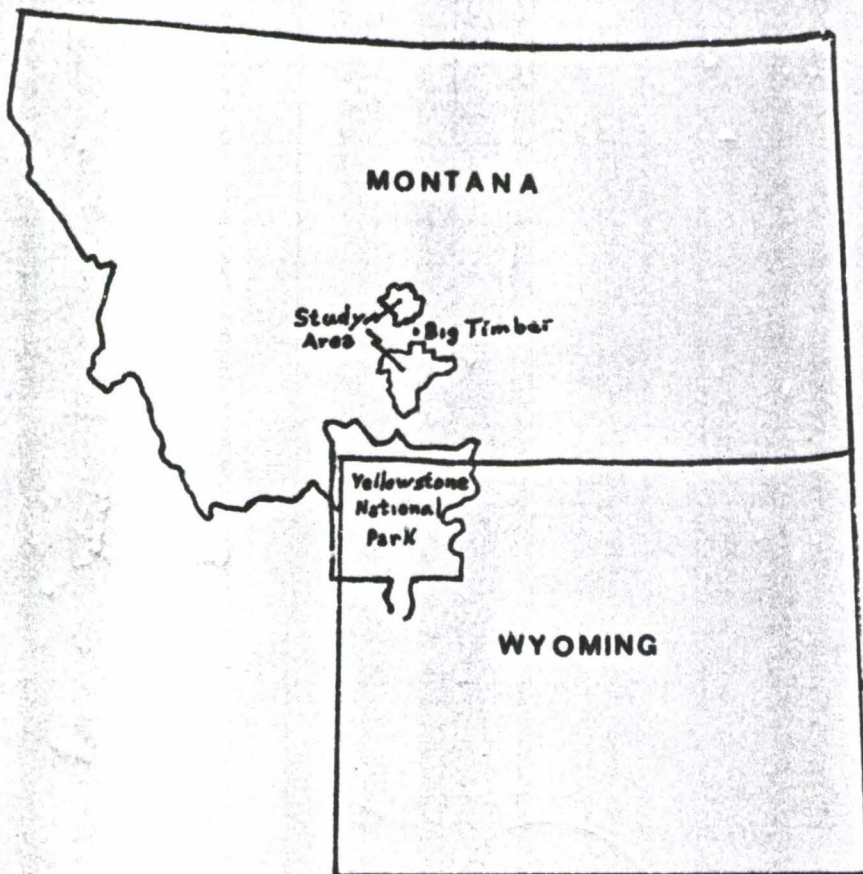
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FOR

CHURCH CAMP AND GUEST RANCH VISITORS

BIG TIMBER RANGER DISTRICT

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

MONTANA

PREPARED FOR

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

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By: John F. McCulloch

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### QUALIFYING STATEMENT

This study was prepared as a student project in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Professional Development for Outdoor Recreation Management program at Clemson University. It in no way reflects U.S. Forest Service policy nor are the opinions expressed those of anyone other than the author.



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ABSTRACT

This paper identifies a need for visitor contact by the Forest Service at guest ranches and church camps on a ranger district in southern Montana. The study develops alternatives for making the contacts, analyzes each alternative relative to benefits and cost, selects a preferred alternative and develops an implementation and monitoring plan.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

*"There shall be at the seat of Government a Department of Agriculture, the general design and duties of which shall be to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of the word" (Department of Agriculture Organic Act):*

The original purpose for establishing the Department of Agriculture, of which the Forest Service is the largest agency, was to disseminate information to the people of the United States. The Act does not specify how this is to be done. One time-tested and effective technique of informing the people is interpretation, the method discussed in this paper.

The Big Timber Ranger District on the Gallatin National Forest in Montana has four church camps and five guest ranches in or adjacent to the National Forest. Visitors and guests at these facilities come from all over the United States. Some of the ranch customers are from Canada, Europe and Japan. Together, the nine facilities represent 21 percent of the total District recreation use. In 1983 there were 310,171 visitor days of recreation use for all activities on the Big Timber Ranger District. Dude ranches comprised 9,030 visitor days and church camps 56,460 visitor days.

Most of the dude ranch and church camp visitors have very little contact with the Forest Service, and often the impressions they carry home of the National Forest are inaccurate. The recreation experience of many of these people could be enhanced, with big dividends to the Forest Service, if a meaningful interpretive program were made available to them.

#### A. Goal of The Study

The goal of this study is to find a way to provide regular scheduled interpretive programs to the church camps and dude ranches on the Big Timber Ranger District. The target audience includes the camp and ranch operators, their staff, and the 6000 guests, both children and adults, that visit the facilities each year. Some possible programs could include interpretation of the flora, fauna, and geology; explanation of National Forest management practices; wilderness ethics, such as "no trace camping"; fire prevention and grizzly bear management. Side benefits would be to gain better understanding of Forest Service management and the reasons for it, and to encourage participation in one of the Forest volunteer programs, such as "Touch America Project" or "Adopt-A-Trail".

#### B. Background

In 1983 the District presented programs at three of the church camps and one guest ranch in order to familiarize owners and camp managers with available Forest Service programs and to test the reaction of the



guests to the presentations. The talks presented were a slide tape on no trace camping, and the movies Bears and Man and A Fire Called Jeremiah. One nature walk was conducted with a group of eight and nine year old children. One church camp signed up under the volunteer program to maintain a wilderness trail, which necessitated even more contacts for training purposes.

All of the programs were well received. The church camps in particular have expressed an interest in more programs by the Forest Service.

Hopefully, this study will provide guidelines for other districts having similar opportunities to implement an interpretive program of their own.

## II. DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

### A. Background

Sharp says, "One objective of interpretation is to promote public understanding of an agency and its programs. Every agency has a message to convey. Well done interpretation favorably promotes the image of the agency which supplies it" (Sharp 1976). In another part of the same book he says, "The purpose of public relations is to inform the public of your programs and services. Without this, often the only matters that get into print are controversial ones. This frequently means that your image is being shaped by your critics" (Sharp 1976).

A Washington Office task force report on interpretive services dated August 3, 1982 identifies four general problems the Forest Service needs to address.

- "1. Much of the public does not understand who the Forest Service is or how it operates.
2. Not only do people not understand how Forest Service manages timber, wildlife, range, or fire, they also do not understand the interrelationships of such resource management.
3. People do not 'see' the planning that goes into forest management. What they often see is the immediate, direct, and worst possible situation that results from Forest Service management, e.g., a clear cut.

4. Interpretive Services in FY '81 provided roughly 120 million activity occasions (visitor contacts). Substantial opportunity exists for this program to communicate our message to the public. Currently the Forest Service is not adequately focusing the Interpretive Services program toward this purpose" (USDA Forest Service 1982).

The foregoing statements reflect the concerns that motivated this study.

Presently there are over 6,000 individuals visiting the Big Timber Ranger District who have little or no direct contact with the Forest Service. Some people feel that the National Forests are being threatened and that the only way to preserve them is through the establishment of wilderness (see Appendix C), although these same people often do not understand wilderness management and the constraints imposed by wilderness designation. The last statement is made without intending to belittle the supporters of "legitimate" wilderness. People would still oppose Forest Service management, but the public has a right to know the reasons for management policies; and the agency has a responsibility to inform them.

Guest or dude ranches pose a special challenge in designing an interpretive program. Sullivan points out in his thesis that, "the consumer is an integral part of the dude ranch. Not only does he buy the services offered but in some degree, he is responsible for the production of the services which he buys. That is, at most of the dude ranches,



the guest is allowed to participate in any activity of the dude ranch that he desires. Whether or not the guests enjoy themselves while at the ranch is, to a large degree, the responsibility of the guests themselves". He further points out that "customer satisfaction is the key to a successful dude ranch operation since most of the business is repeat business. Customer satisfaction comes from successful interaction of the guests with the ranch operators and the ranch environment" (Sullivan 1971). Therefore, if a program is to be successful, it must be an enjoyable experience for the guest.

Shreyer gets right to the point when he says, "Being used to thinking in terms of biological factors, foresters often interpret recreation related problems in the context of protecting the resource, rather than enhancing experiences for the visitor while maintaining a quality environment" (Shreyer 1980).

#### B. Program Objectives

With the foregoing background in mind, the following program objectives have been developed:

1. Present programs that will enhance the recreation experience of the visitors and still improve the visitor's understanding of National Forest management practices and the reasons for them.
2. Meet the desires of the visitors and their hosts. (Cover subjects that are of interest to the visitor.)

3. Contact as many of the 6,000 visitors to the guest ranches and church camps as possible each year.
4. Keep costs of contacts within the existing District budget.  
Direct costs of the program should not exceed \$6,000.00.
5. Receive feedback on visitor concerns to aid in management.

### III. LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature search, prior to beginning the project, was conducted with the help of the Western Forestry Information Network (WESTFORNET) Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah. The search did not reveal any studies similar to this one.

Sharpe (1976) and Shreyer (1980) were helpful in developing the interpretive plan and in formulating the program objectives outlined in chapter II. Both authors discuss the pitfalls of placing too much emphasis on conveying the agency message and overlooking the importance of enhancing the visitor's experience. Sharpe's book, Interpreting The Environment, is an excellent training aid for interpreters.

Benefit cost information was obtained mostly from two U.S.D.A. publications "Measuring and Improving the Effectiveness of Public Outdoor Recreation Programs" (Driver 1983) and a paper entitled "The Economics of Outdoor Recreation and The Forest Planner" (Convery 1974). These papers gave some understanding and ideas on the application of economics to this project. After reviewing these papers and others it became obvious that costs were easier to measure than benefits. This is discussed further in chapter IV.



#### IV. METHODOLOGY

##### A. The Study

This study will explore alternatives for developing and implementing an interpretive program for the church camps and guest ranches on the Big Timber District.

The managers of the camps and guest ranches were interviewed in the summer of 1983 to determine their needs and desires in regard to obtaining regular visits from the Forest Service. Results of each interview are found in the appendix. The responses were generally favorable. Some evening programs were presented by the investigator during the 1983 field season to get a better understanding of the audiences, their response to various programs and their interests. When approached, the camp and ranch managers expressed an interest in visits from the Forest Service varying from one visit per week to one or two per summer (see Appendix A & B). The areas of interest vary and cover almost every subject within the resource capabilities of the Forest Service. Subjects of most interest are geology, flora and fauna, National Forest management, nature walks and camping skills.

If all expressed desires for Forest Service programs were fully met, about 60 programs would be presented each summer over a 12 week period, or five programs per week. If each program took two hours to present,

this would amount to about 10 hours each week plus preparation and travel time.

Program alternatives will be developed, and each alternative will be evaluated on how well it meets the objectives outlined in chapter II, and on benefit and cost analysis. The preferred alternative will then be developed into a plan for implementing the program. Monitoring and feedback will be a part of the program.

#### B. Benefits and Costs

Convery and Smith suggest that, "by simulating alternative sets of practices that will achieve the outputs specified, we can readily determine if each set of outputs will be produced in a least cost manner. To accomplish this it is not necessary to place a common value on the outputs" (Convery and Smith 1977). This is the benefit-cost approach that will be used in this study to compare those alternatives that are nearly equal in meeting the program objectives.

The costs of various alternatives can be estimated with some degree of reliability. Benefits, however, will be the degree to which each alternative addresses the objectives.

Additional benefits suggested by Driver and Rosenthal are behavioral changes due to increased learning and self fulfillment (Driver and Rosenthal 1983). These benefits will be more difficult to measure,

but it is assumed some behavioral changes will occur. As the program is continued, the District should begin to notice improvement in camping practices, support for District programs, and other behavioral changes. This will be the real test of whether the program objectives are met.

Another measure of these benefits will be feedback through public involvement. Driver and Rosenthal also suggest that "this public involvement approach probably provides the most reliable estimate of program benefits, although the benefits identified are not always explicit and public input may not be fully representative" (Driver and Rosenthal, 1983). Feedback will be obtained as subsequent programs are presented.



## V. ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The following alternatives were developed to accomplish the program objectives:

1. District Ranger and his primary staff conduct interpretive programs at the nine facilities as they can schedule around other work.
2. Ranger District staff develop slide tape programs on various subjects and, supplemented by existing movies and slide programs, have the presentations made by a seasonal employee.
3. Respond to requests of the camps and ranches as time and resources permit. Only contacts would be when facilities request them.
4. Loan films, tapes, etc. to facilities for them to show at their convenience.
5. Utilize a combination of alternatives 1, 2 and 3, but schedule so that a program is available at each facility as often as they want it.
6. Employ a public information officer for the District.
7. Same as alternative 5 except utilize a volunteer to present some of the programs.

### A. Evaluation of Alternatives

#### Alternative 1. Ranger and staff present programs.

On the Big Timber Ranger District there are four staff plus the Ranger who are sufficiently versed on Forest Service policy and resource

management to present programs to the nine facilities. Each staff member has varying degrees of skill, experience, knowledge and speaking ability, however, each could handle the assignment with a little training in interpretation. In order to fully meet the 60 requests, each person would have to present 12 programs per season. Preparation and presentation would require about 13 percent of each person's total work time during the field season. Other work priorities would make it impractical to spend that much time. The District might be able to meet half of the demand, or about 30 programs, at the most. This alternative would provide the most skilled and best trained people to contact the forest users. It would have the potential of enhancing the recreation experience for those visitors contacted, as full-time employees should have high credibility with the forest user. However, only about half the visitors would be contacted.

This alternative would have a high cost in relation to the benefits due to the high salaries of the employees involved, while contacting only half the visitors. The desires of the camp and ranch operators would not be met as there would not be as many sessions as they would like. Other objectives would be met with those people contacted.

This alternative would cost about \$4202.00 per year (if there were no volunteer or contributed time, which there likely would be). Each staff member would probably spend about three days preparing their various programs. Each presentation would probably take about four hours, two hours to present the program plus two hours travel time. If the

District were able to present 30 programs under this alternative, each staff plus the Ranger would be responsible for six programs. Total time spent each season would be six days per person.

The average salary cost to the government for the five positions is \$129.33 per day. The total cost includes time lost from other work responsibilities.

\$129.33 x 30 days =	\$3879.90
Mileage: 30 trips at 75 miles each = 2250 miles	
2250 x .13 per mile =	292.50
Film and other visual aids =	<u>30.00</u>
Total cost =	\$4202.40

Alternative 2. Taped or prepared programs presented by a seasonal employee.

A seasonal employee would spend about 50 percent of his time presenting programs. The remaining time the employee would perform other work, such as compliance checking or fire prevention. Programs would be prepared by various resource specialists on the District and in the Supervisor's office.

Seasonal employees are typically college students and are usually available, after training and orientation, from July 1 through mid September. Programs in the spring or fall would have to be presented by someone else or skipped. The past two years the District has had to rely on volunteers to complete its recreation program. It's not likely that funding would be available for even a half year interpretive program.



This alternative would contact most visitors during the 10 weeks of summer but would miss spring and fall visitors. The position would require training and supervision. There may not be as much credibility with a seasonal employee as with a permanent. The alternative may work fine with children but may be less than desirable with adults. Input and feedback for management of other Forest programs may lose something in the communication process with a seasonal employee. Most facility operators prefer to have the District Ranger, or at least a permanent employee, present programs. This is especially true of guest ranch operators. This alternative would mean other work would not be done, such as some fire prevention contacts. This would cost approximately \$5820.00 per year, itemized as follows. Preparation of talks or presentations would require the same amount of time as in Alternative 1. In addition, the seasonal employee would require about ten days of on-the-job training and supervision.

Preparation of talks:

\$129.33 x 15 days =	\$1939.95
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Supervision by Resource Assistant:

\$149.46 x 10 days =	1494.60
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Seasonal salary:

GS-5 for 30 days x \$59.00 per day =	1770.00
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Mileage: 60 trips at 75 miles each = 4500 miles

4500 x .13 per mile =	585.00
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Film and other visual aids =	<u>30.00</u>
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Total cost =	\$5819.55
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Alternative 3. Respond to requests only, as time permits.

This alternative is essentially the situation as it exists now. In 1983 the District presented five programs, which was more than in the previous two years. This alternative does not fully meet any of the objectives outlined in this study.

Assuming five presentations per year by the District Ranger, this alternative would cost \$476.00 per year as follows:

2-1/2 days at \$167.00 per day =	\$417.72
Mileage: 5 trips at 75 miles each = 375 miles	
375 x .13 per mile =	48.75
Visual aids, etc. =	<u>10.00</u>
Total cost =	\$476.47

Alternative 4. Loan films, tapes, etc.

To make this alternative work each facility would have to be encouraged to order and show the films and slides. Some District involvement would still be necessary. Forest Service films and slide tapes are not personalized unless they happen to be of the local area. The guest ranches, and to some degree the church camps, would probably lose interest after a while. This alternative would not meet the objectives of achieving personal contact, obtaining feedback from the forest user, nor meet the desires of the visitors and their hosts. The visitor's recreation experience will probably not be enhanced much by a showing of an impersonal movie.

The cost of this alternative will include the postage to mail films back and forth to the Regional library in Missoula plus some travel and time involved in coordination. Total cost is estimated at \$665.00 per year as follows:

Postage for films etc.

60 films at \$4.86 each =	\$291.60
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(includes mailing both ways)

Films could be delivered by field crews incidental to other work, however, some mileage and coordination would be required.

2 days at \$167.09 =	334.18
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Mileage: 4 trips at 75 miles each = 300 miles

300 x .13 per mile =	<u>39.00</u>
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Total cost =	\$664.78
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#### Alternative 5. Combination of alternatives 1, 2, and 3.

This alternative would be scheduled to provide a suitable program at each facility as often as desired. Some programs would be presented by the Ranger and his permanent staff and others by a seasonal Recreation Aid, depending upon the audience and the subject to be presented. In addition, movies and slide programs would be loaned for the facilities to show on their own. This alternative has the potential of meeting all of the objectives.

Guest ranch visits and adult camps would be contacted primarily by the Ranger and his permanent staff. Youth camps would be contacted by a



seasonal Recreation Aid. There would be approximately 30 programs to be presented by the permanent staff. An additional 30 programs, or about three per week, during the summer months would be presented by the Recreation Aid and would involve about one third of his total time. Total cost for this alternative would be \$5817.00 per year.

The cost for the thirty programs presented by the Ranger and staff would be identical to alternative one, or \$4202.00. Additional cost of the seasonal's programs are as follows:

Staff programs =	\$4202.40
Salary for GS-5 Seasonal	
20 days at \$59.00 =	1180.00
(includes training and preparation)	
Per diem: 20 days at \$12.00 =	240.00
Mileage for seasonal	
15 trips at 75 miles each = 1125 miles	
1125 miles x .13 per mile =	146.25
Postage for films, etc. =	<u>48.60</u>
Total cost =	\$5817.25

Alternative 6. Employ a Public Information Officer for the District.

Under this alternative a district Public Information Officer would prepare and present all the programs. The Information Officer would be a new position. This alternative would provide an opportunity for the District to become involved in other interpretive programs outside the scope of this study. For example, the employee could present programs

at the schools during winter months. The job would likely be combined with other duties, such as recreation management and possibly special uses. This alternative would meet all objectives, but probably is unrealistic under present budget constraints.

Since this would be a full-time position, costs are figured for one full year and would be funded by several functions. Total cost would be \$29,273.00 per year. Direct cost to recreation might be half, or \$15,000.00.

Salary for GS-9 =	\$23,765.00
Travel and training =	4,700.00
Supplies:	
Desk =	356.00
Credenza =	166.00
Chair =	84.00
Bookcase =	102.00
Miscellaneous supplies =	<u>100.00</u>
Total cost =	\$29,273.00

The above does not include moving expenses the first year which would be made up in salary savings by not filling the position at the beginning of the fiscal year. Moving costs could be as much as \$8000.00.

#### Alternative 7. Utilize volunteers to present some programs.

This alternative is limited only by the ability of the District to find a suitable volunteer and by the capabilities of the person once they are

on board. An ideal volunteer would be a retired Forest Service employee. There is some question as to whether suitable volunteers could be found, however, a volunteer program could be implemented at any time a suitable person could be obtained. The District could provide living expenses and housing in one of the guard stations. The volunteer would need to be trained and in uniform. Some programs would still need to be presented by the District Ranger and staff.

The volunteer would most likely substitute for the seasonal Recreation Aid in alternative 5. However, should the District be fortunate enough to find a retired Forest Service employee or other qualified person, the volunteer could take even more of the programs, thus freeing the District staff for other work. For cost evaluation it was assumed the volunteer would substitute for the seasonal position in alternative 5. Since this would not be a full time job, the volunteer could be used for other work, such as maintaining wilderness posters, obtaining visitor use information, etc.; or the volunteer could be free to enjoy the National Forest in the off hours.

The cost of this alternative would be approximately \$5,463.00 as follows:

Staff programs =	\$4202.40
Subsistence for volunteer =	
90 days at \$10.00 =	900.00
Mileage: 15 trips at 75 miles each = 1125 miles	
1125 miles x .20 per mile =	225.00



(note: a higher mileage figure is used because it is assumed volunteer would use his own car.)

Postage for films, etc. =	48.60
Uniform =	<u>87.00</u>
Total cost =	\$5463.00

#### B. Comparison of Alternatives

The table following compares the alternatives and how well they meet the objectives. Alternatives 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 are attainable within the existing District budget, but alternatives 1, 5, and 7 would require that existing priorities be changed. Alternatives 2 and 6 would require supplemental financing. Costs are shown in the table as calculated. Each alternative is rated against the other objectives on a scale of 0 to 5. A 5 means the objective would be fully met. A 0 means the objective would not be met at all.

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES IN RELATION TO HOW WELL THEY MEET OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVES	ALT.#1	ALT.#2	ALT.#3	ALT.#4	ALT.#5	ALT.#6	ALT.#7
Present programs that will enhance recreation experience of the visitors.	3	3	2	1	4	5	4
Meet the desires of the visitors and their hosts.	3	2	2	1	5	5	5
Contact as many of the visitors as possible each year.	3	4	2	1	5	5	5
Keep costs below \$6,000.00.	*	*	*	*	*	<u>1/</u>	*
	\$4,202.00	\$5,820.00	\$476.00	\$665.00	\$5,817.25	\$29,273.00	\$5,463.00
Receive feedback on visitors' concerns.	3	4	2	0	5	5	5

\*Starred items meet this objective.

Explanation of rating:

5 - Fully meets objective.

4 - Almost meets objective.

3 - Meets objective with 50% to 75% of visitors.

2 - Meets objective with less than half the visitors.

1 - Occasionally meets objective.

0 - Does not meet objective.

1/Only about \$15,000 of this would be a direct cost to recreation.

Alternatives 5, 6, and 7 do the best job of meeting all objectives. Alternatives 5 and 7 were given only a 4 for enhancing recreation experience because of Shreyer's contention that "foresters often interpret recreation related problems in terms of protecting the resource rather than enhancing experiences for the visitor" (Shreyer 1980). As Sharpe points out in his book "Interpreting The Environment", "One cannot invite people to a park or forest for an interpretive experience and offer them only agency propaganda" (Sharpe 1976). The assumption is made that the Ranger's staff will be inclined to lean more toward "agency propaganda" rather than enhancing the recreation experience, whereby a professional interpreter would do a better job in this regard. Thus, the lower rating. If alternatives 5 or 7 were adopted, an attempt would be made to overcome this tendency through training.

Since Alternative 3 would only contact about half the visitors, each objective was given a 3 under this alternative. However, the contacts that are made will be with the most experienced and knowledgeable employees. Conversely, alternative 2 contacts are all with a seasonal employee.

#### C. Selection of Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative is 7, make the visitor contacts with a combination of Ranger, staff, and seasonal volunteer and supplement with films and slide tape programs. This alternative can be implemented with a little training and realigning some District priorities. The cost is within the capabilities of the existing budget, and this alternative comes close to fully meeting all objectives.



The second preference is alternative 5 which meets the same objectives as 7 at slightly higher cost. This alternative would be implemented if a suitable volunteer cannot be found.

D. Implementation and Monitoring

The program will be implemented in 1984. Each district staff, volunteer, and/or seasonal technician will be required to read Sharpe's book Interpreting The Environment, especially chapter 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 20 and 26. In addition, a one day orientation on interpretation will be conducted by the District Ranger the first week of the summer season. The Forest Recreation Staff will be asked to help with this training.

Each employee will be asked to submit a brief written report after each presentation stating subject of talk, number and age of audience, reaction of audience, concerns of audience related to Forest Service management and suggestions for improving the presentation. These reports will be submitted to the District Ranger. The Ranger will personally conduct at least six talks and will do more if time permits.

A full report on the season's program will be made to the Forest Supervisor by December 1 each year. The report will include:

1. Number of talks presented and to which facilities.
2. Number of people contacted and age groups.
3. Subject of talks.

4. Reaction of audience.
5. Concerns of audience about Forest Service management.
6. Suggestions for improving the programs.

Programs presented by the seasonal or volunteer will be prepared programs on fire prevention, low impact camping, litter cleanup, and so forth. The volunteer will also conduct some nature walks. Most of these programs will be oriented toward youth. Sessions presented by the Ranger and permanent staff will be more technical and will deal with resource management and current issues. Subjects that might be presented by the permanent staff are:

1. Geology of the local area.
2. Insect and disease problems and what can be done about them.
3. The District timber program.
4. History of the area.
5. Wild animals and their management.
6. Trail maintenance and management.
7. Wild flowers of the area.
8. Sheep grazing on the National Forest.

Each presentation should allow plenty of time for questions, answers and expression of concerns.

#### E. Sustaining the Program

Assuming that this program is successful, the reader may wonder if it will be sustained when present District personnel are transferred. If the program is well received by the ranch and camp operators, they will continue to request services from the District, for as long as the program meets their needs.

To further guard against this eventuality, the District plans to include the program in other plans, such as the Forest Inform and Involve Plan, District Fire Prevention Plan, and Grizzly Bear Action Plan. There is no way, however, to absolutely guarantee the program will be continued.



## VI. SUMMARY

On the Big Timber Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, there are five guest ranches and four church camps that together generate over 6,000 individual visitors to the National Forest each year. Few of these guests ever have contact with a forest officer. This study is a plan to correct this problem by developing an interpretive program to contact most of these visitors.

Specific objectives of the proposal are to:

1. Present programs that will enhance the recreation experience of the visitor and still improve the visitor's understanding of National Forest management practices and the reasons for them.
2. Meet the desires of the visitors and their hosts.
3. Contact as many of the 6,000 visitors to the guest ranches and church camps as possible each year.
4. Keep costs of contacts within the existing District budget. Direct costs of the program should not exceed \$6,000.00.
5. Receive feedback on visitor concerns to aid in management.

To meet these objectives seven alternatives were developed.

1. District Ranger and his primary staff conduct interpretive programs at the nine facilities as they can schedule around other work.
2. Ranger's staff develop slide tape programs on various subjects and, supplemented by existing movies and slide programs, have the presentations made by a seasonal employee.

3. Respond to the requests of the facilities as time and resources permit.
4. Loan films, tapes, etc. to the ranches and camps for them to show at their convenience.
5. Utilize a combination of alternatives 1, 2, and 3 so as to schedule a program at each facility as often as they want a program.
6. Employ a professional Public Information Officer on the District.
7. Same as alternative 5 except utilize a volunteer to present some of the programs.

Based upon the findings of the study, the preferred or selected alternative is 7. The program will be implemented in the summer of 1984. A monitoring program will determine the effectiveness of the plan as discussed in chapter V.

## VII. LITERATURE CITED AND GENERAL REFERENCES

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# VIII. APPENDIX

- A. Description of church camps.
- B. Description of guest ranches.
- C. Newspaper clipping from Billings Gazette.
- D. Map of southern part of District showing church camps and guest ranches.
- E. Map of northern part of District showing guest ranches.

## CHURCH CAMPS

### Mimanagish

This camp is operated by the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ. The facilities are entirely on National Forest land and are operated under special use permit. The camp operates for about 12 weeks during the summer. There is bed space for 200 people at one time, but the average is around 50.

In 1982 the camp had 4800 visitor days of use. Approximately 10 percent are estimated to be first time visitors.

The camp director is Judy Holcomb from Billings. She is interested in regular visits by the Forest Service to present programs on animals, how to avoid contact with bears, environmental issues, low impact camping, geology, flora, fauna, water and general care of the area. She would like one visit from the Forest Service at each camp, or about one per week.

Judy is interested in pursuing a volunteer agreement with the Forest Service for trail maintenance. She is also interested in obtaining literature on fire safety and first aid for the camp.

Four annual camps, of one week each, are to developmentally disabled and other disadvantaged youth.



### Clydehurst

The camp manager is Wayne Brownson from Billings. The facility is on private land and is owned and operated by the Billings Bible Church. The camp offers horseback riding, swimming and hunter safety as part of its regular program.

There is bed space for 230 at one time. The camp averages 1300 guests and 50 staff over the 12 week operating period, for 13,500 visitor days. Approximately half of the guests are new each year. The director is interested in weekly visits by the Forest Service to present programs on wilderness, nature study, plants and animals. They are open to a volunteer program.

There are no special programs for handicapped or disadvantaged, but some emotionally disturbed young people are incorporated into the regular camping program.

### Camp-On-The-Boulder

This is the largest camp of the four. It is operated by the United Methodist Church. Bob Dunn is the camp manager. The facility is entirely on private land.

The camp is operated from the last week in April through the third week of October and accomodates 3000 individual campers each season for 30,000 visitor days.

The director is interested in Forest Service visits for some camps. There is a new camp each week. They are interested in whatever programs we have available, but especially fire prevention and low impact camping.

They are interested in a volunteer program, particularly trail maintenance.

There are no special programs for handicapped or disadvantaged at the facility.

#### Christikon

This camp is on private land in the upper Boulder and is operated by the Lutheran Church (A.L.C.). Bob Quam from Billings is the camp director.

In 1983 the camp volunteered to maintain five miles of the Bridge Creek trail in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Approximately 100 individuals worked on the trail supervised by 25 staff workers. The Forest Service provided overall supervision and furnished some tools.

Two interpretive programs were presented at the camp in 1983 on a trial basis. They were well received. A movie on grizzly bears was shown one evening, and a slide talk on low impact camping was presented on another occasion.

The camp director is very interested in having visits by the Forest Service for six of their camps plus one visit for staff orientation at the start of

the season. They are interested in talks on geology, flora and fauna, history of the area, nature, camping skills, care of the land, safety, health, etc.

The camp has a capacity for 90 people at one time. In 1982 the facility had 680 individual campers plus 25 staff for 8160 visitor days of use. The operating season is 12 weeks. Approximately 65 percent of the campers are new each year.

There is one camp each summer for mentally retarded adults. There are no other programs for the disadvantaged.

The camp places a heavy emphasis on backpacking, hiking and camping skills. They make a lot of use of the adjacent wilderness area.



### GUEST RANCHES

#### Lazy K Bar Ranch

Located on the east slope of the Crazy Mountains in Big Timber Canyon. The ranch is operated by a fourth generation family of early Montana pioneers and is open from the last week in June until the first week in September. The facility has a capacity for approximately 50 guests at one time and averages about 150 visitors each season. Approximately 50 percent of the guests are new each year.

The owner would like a Forest Service program about two times a season. They would like films or slide talks on flowers, animals, and geology. Nature walks would also be acceptable.

Concerns of the owners are:

1. Cleanup of back country.
2. More enforcement of pack in-pack out policy.
3. Respect for landowner's rights.

#### Boulder River Ranch

Located at the mouth of the Boulder about two miles past the Forest Boundary on the Main Boulder Road. The ranch has been operated by the same family since 1917 and is open from June through hunting season, toward the end of November.

The ranch has a capacity of about 30 guests at one time and accomodates about 240 people annually. Approximately 40 percent, or 96, are new each year.

The manager would like Forest Service programs on a call-when-needed basis, but not on a regular schedule. They are specifically interested in mining and geology.

Concerns are:

1. Wildlife.
2. Better trail maintenance.
3. Protection of private rights.

#### Hawley Mountain Guest Ranch

This is a small ranch on the upper Boulder. The operating season is from the last of June through November. The ranch capacity is 10 people at one time with approximately 80 people per season. Ninety percent of the guests are new each year. For many guests this is a once in a lifetime experience.

The proprietor is interested in having a Forest Service program about once each week on forest management, mining and geology.

Concerns are:

1. Charging for commercial day use of the National Forest when no overnight camping is involved.



2. Snowmobile restrictions.
3. Sheep grazing in areas behind the ranch.

### Burnt Leather Ranch

This ranch is located just inside the Forest boundary on the West Boulder River. The facility takes guests from June through hunting season, or about the last week of November.

The owner's policy is to limit the number of guests to no more than eight at one time. They accomodate around 100 guests per season, or 1400 visitor days. Approximately 50 percent of the guests are new each year.

The manager would like a Forest Service program about three times per summer. He would like one program in the fall during hunting season. Subjects of interest are geology, animals, plants and Forest Service trail management. The owner is particularly concerned about trail maintenance.

### Carroccia's Sweet Grass Ranch

This ranch is located at the National Forest boundary on Sweet Grass Creek on the east side of the Crazy Mountains. The operating season is from the last week in June through the first week in September. The facility accomodates about 75 guests each season. Approximately 40 percent are new each year. The average stay for guests is one week.



The owner would like at least one presentation per year on geology, flowers, birds or insects and their effects on trees. The owner is also interested in having the District Ranger accompany the guests on a day ride. The number and type of presentations would depend on the guests and their interests.



Billings Gazette 11/23/83

# Groups want to increase wilderness acreage

By TOM COOK  
Special Montana Bureau

BILLINGS — Conservationists from 12 organizations have formed the Montana Wildlife Coalition with the hope of adding about 2.5 million acres of wilderness area preserved in the state.

Jim Richards of Helena, chairman of the coalition, said its initial efforts will be in support of a statewide wilderness bill expected to be introduced in Congress next year by the state's congressional delegation.

"Our high quality of outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, depends on a wildland environment," Richards said. "Wil-

derness designation is one long-term guarantee that our irreplaceable wildlands will remain for this and future generations."

Richards, who is also president of the Montana Wildlife Federation, said the coalition recognizes "the need for balance between preservation and development of our public wildlands."

The coalition supports adding about 2.5 million acres of roadless areas to the 2.4 million acres now set aside in the state, he said, especially by expanding the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

If the legislation is successful, Richards said only 6 percent of the total acreage in the state would be protected as wilderness.



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## 1971



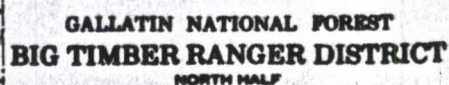
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## APPENDIX E



### NORTH HALF

1971



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